

to 5,000. I believe that it's unfortunate, this lady today works in a nursing home to earn a few dollars so as to provide for her own old age. She is no doubt caring for people younger than she is. She is not sitting around looking for something for nothing. She thought she had a little, small asset. She, in fact, instead has a liability. In addition to that, while we're on it, a certified contractor came in and tore the place up and has left it that way since the pollution was discovered. I want to make it clear here on the floor also that whether we stick with the 15,000 or whether at a later date I am successful in lowering that again to 5,000, I think it's important for the record to show, and I hope Senator Johnson will comment upon this, that the reimbursement will apply to anyone notwithstanding the fact that a complaint has been filed or that an administrative order for cleanup has been issued. That is my understanding of the statute. If that is not correct, I would hope that Senator Johnson would correct me...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...as of this time. The point I want to make is this, I hope that those of you who are listening within microphone range, if you're not on the floor, will understand that many, many small operators are not worth \$25,000 to...many of them are not worth 15, it would be a serious hardship for them to spend 15,000 much more so than it would be for the large interstate operator to spend 25,000. It's a matter of equity, ladies and gentlemen, it's a matter of percentages and resources. It's a matter of ability to pay. It's a matter of common sense. I would suggest and I would hope, and I will support this amendment to bring the bill back to make the corrections that have been outlined by Senator Johnson. I commend him for doing it. I appreciate very much the fact that he corrects the problem which would have required the small operator to pay the 15,000 in one lump, but I think it is also important for me to tell you...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...that if this is done, that I will also come back again and offer the amendment limiting the small operator to the first \$5,000 of expense. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Warner.